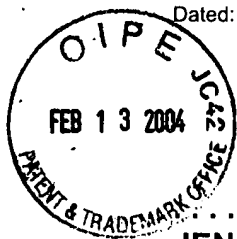


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: February 10, 2004

Signature: A. Hamm (Amy L. Hamm)



1998/G 021 (5587*311)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

.....
JENS EHLERS ET AL :

SERIAL NO: 09/787,875 :

ART UNIT: 1713

FILED: JULY 19, 2001 :

EXAMINER: RABAGO, R.

FOR: PROCESS FOR PREPARING A :
POLYMER

.....
MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FEB 24 2004

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action dated August 22, 2003, kindly amend the above identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this response.